

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 20243 151632Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /092 W
----- 012684 /53

P R 151558Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8771
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 20243

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TU, CY
SUBJECT: PUBLICIZING OF UN DOCUMENTS ON TURKISH AC-
TIVITIES IN CYPRUS

1. TIMES ON DECEMBER 13 CARRIED LENGTHY REPORT FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT ROBERT FISK, NOW IN NICOSIA, INDICATING THAT HE HAD HAD ACCESS TO "CONFIDENTIAL UN MILITARY DOCUMENTS", CIRCULATED TO UNFICYP, "DISCLOSING THAT LOOTING IS BEING SYSTEMATICALLY CARRIED OUT ON A MASSIVE SCALE BY THE TURKISH AND TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES IN THE NORTH OF THE ISLAND." FISK REPORTS THAT THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH "HAVE COME INTO THE HANDS OF THE TIMES", STATE "CATEGORICALLY THAT SCORES OF GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE BEING FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSES IN TURKISH AREAS AND THAT ROBBERY IS NOW WIDESPREAD IN PARTS OF TURKISH-HELD CYPRUS." MANY OF THE PAPERS DEAL WITH THE VAROSHA DISTRICT. FISK'S REPORT THEN QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM SPECIFICALLY NUMBERED AND DATED DOCUMENTS.

2. GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT JOHN BIERMAN REPORTS IN ITS ISSUE OF DECEMBER 14 THAT UNFICYP OFFICIALS WERE MEETING AT NIGHT TO TRY TO DETERMINE HOW THE DOCUMENTS WERE LEAKED, AND ARE EMBARRASSED. IN THE DECEMBER 15 GUARDIAN, BIERMAN REPORTS "DUST WAS BEGINNING TO SETTLE OVER UN HEADQUARTERS IN NICOSIA AFTER THE RUMPUS ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNAUTHORIZED LEAKAGE" OF THE REPORTS. BIERMAN RE-

PORTS UN OFFICIALS FEAR THE INCIDENT MAY SABOTAGE THE PROPOSED UN AGREEMENT WITH THE DENKTASH ADMINISTRATION. HE EXPLAINS THAT IT HAS BEEN HELD UP BY DIFFICULTIES OVER HOW DENKTASH SHOULD SIGN THE AGREEMENT, THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE BAULKING AT DENKTASH SIGNING WITH HIS TITLE BETWEEN QUOTATION MARKS AND WALDHEIM NOT WANTING TO OFFEND ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS UNNECESSARILY.

3. FISK IN TIMES OF DECEMBER 15 ALSO REPORTS UNFICYP OFFICIALS MEETING AT NIGHT TO DISCUSS DISCLOSURES AND MAKING INTENSIVE EFFORTS, SO FAR UNSUCCESSFUL, TO TRACE SOURCE OF LEAK. FISK INDICATES HE IS STILL GETTING EXTRACTS FROM THE UNFICYP DOCUMENTS, SOME OF WHICH HE RECEIVED ON DECEMBER 14 SUGGESTING LREEU CYPRIOTS ALSO LOOTED.

4. COPIES OF STORIES POUCHED TO EUR/SE. IN VIEW OF THE REPORTED "RUMPUS" IN UNFICYP OVER LEAK, WE ASSUME TIMES STORY AVAILABLE IN NICOSIA.

5. COMMENT: FISK IS AN ABLE REPORTER. HE WAS RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO LEBANON WHERE HIS REPORTING QUICKLY BROUGHT THE TIMES BACK INTO THE FRONT RANK OF BRITISH REPORTING ON LEBANON. HIS ARTICLE ON DECEMBER 13 CAN BE EXPECTED TO FURTHER INCREASE THE VOLUME OF PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES FROM THE GREEK CYPRIOT LOBBY IN THE UK DIRECTED TOWARDS THE FCO.
ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, DOCUMENTS, HOUSING, REFUGEES, LOOTING, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON20243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-1220
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761241/aaaabjko.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLICIZING OF UN DOCUMENTS ON TURKISH ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TU, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006